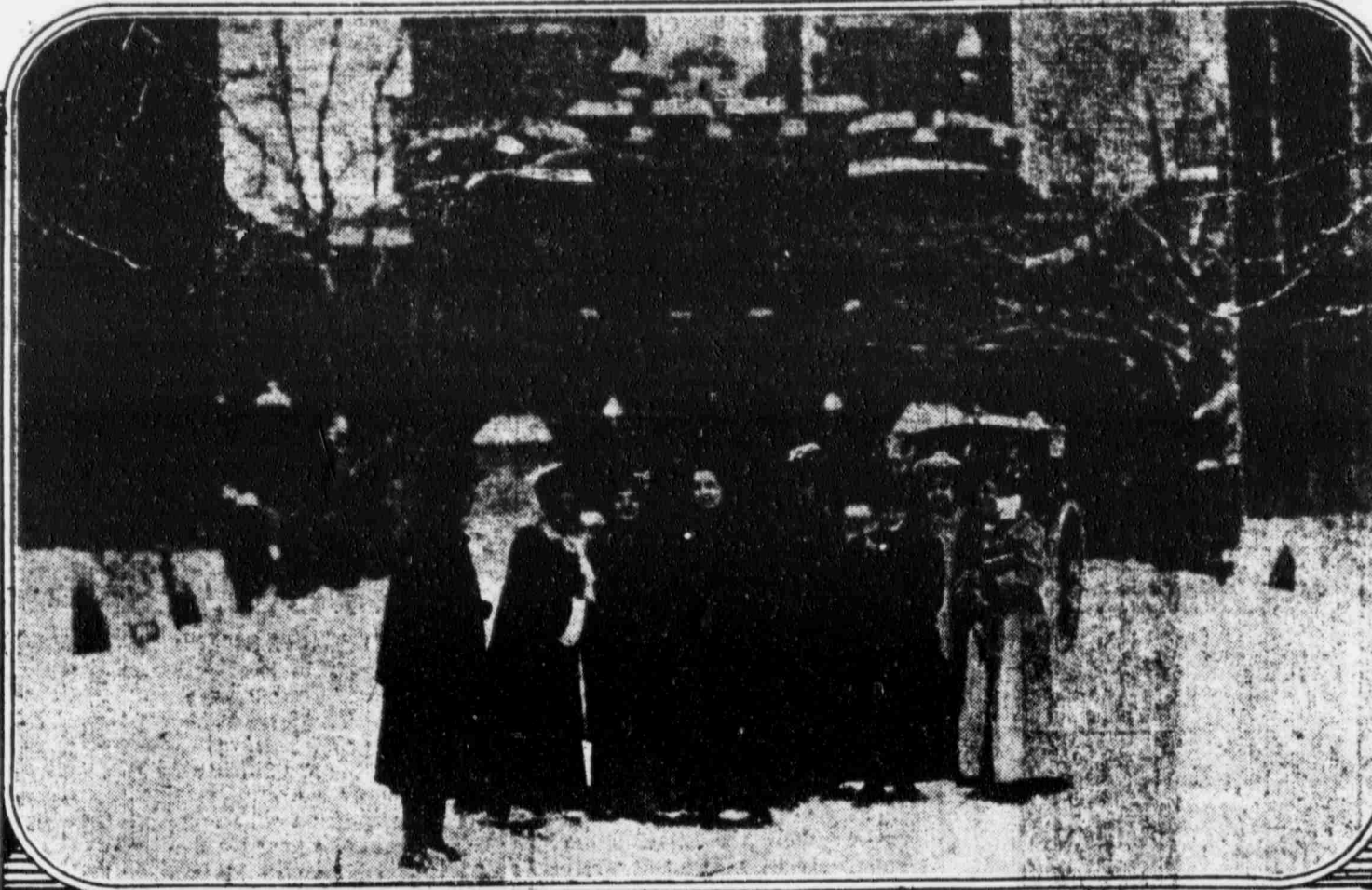


THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE QUESTION IN ENGLAND--THE LEADERS, THEIR METHODS AND THEIR AIMS



ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.



SIX SUFFRAGETTES RELEASED AFTER SPENDING CHRISTMAS IN JAIL. MR. MAC DOUGAL, MRS. MARTELL, MRS. MORRISON, MRS. MAC DOUGAL, MRS. DAVIES, MRS. JOHNSON, MISS BELLINGTON, MRS. ARMSTRONG.



SUFFRAGETTES RELEASED FROM PRISON. MRS. SPENGLER, MRS. KNIGHT.

A year ago the woman suffrage question in Great Britain was largely academic, strictly conventional, highly respectable, its advocates holding dignified annual meetings, passing resolutions and sending petitions to the pigeon holes of Parliament. To-day it is a leading political issue, fills columns of the newspapers, attracts enormous audiences and receives attention from all parts of the world.

The rise of the Labor party and, through its recognition, the development of capable leaders among women are responsible for the present situation. The suffrage matter will be gained in any country by the efforts of women of the so-called upper classes. They are too comfortable to make much of an effort, and their wrongs are not so conspicuous as to cause a loud demand for brightening.

In England trade unions among women are large and well organized, and among these there has been for a long time a strong desire for the franchise as a means for bettering their condition, but they had no leader and few friends in Parliament. Some years ago the women textile workers alone sent out a petition of 65,000 names, but without result. The women of the unions were accused the same as the men for sending a member to Parliament and often he would vote against woman suffrage after he got there.

Soon after the Independent Labor party was formed, the Women's Social and Political Union, composed largely of wage earners, was organized as an auxiliary, and it is this body which has caused all the commotion. It now has probably 10,000 members, with centres in all parts of the kingdom.

Whoever shows the qualities for leadership finds her place and among the leaders are college professors, editors, philanthropists, factory workers and women of independent means. The acknowledged head of the movement is Christabel Pankhurst, 26 years old, daughter of the late Dr. Pankhurst, an eminent barrister who drafted the bill for John Stuart Mill which gave women municipal suffrage in 1869. She took first honors in international law at Victoria University.

From the beginning this union waged a vigorous campaign for woman suffrage. Angered and disgusted at the evasive attitude of Government officials and the contemptuous treatment of franchise bills by Parliament, the women determined on measures which should repeat in a modified form the methods employed in times past by English men to secure their rights, when they tore down park fences, burned public buildings and assaulted Archbishops.

The public is familiar with their attempted calls on Premier and Chancellor, their persistent questioning of candidates at political meetings, their street parades, their processions to the House of Commons, their arrest and imprisonment. The accounts, however, have been greatly distorted.

In but one instance have they "attacked" the officers who arrested them. Miss Billington, who while her arms were pinned by one policeman was choked until black in the face by another, very properly kicked him. The women have been arrested many times when peacefully congregated and making no disturbance.

Last month while marching three abreast on the sidewalk in an orderly manner they were suddenly charged upon by the mounted police, who rode on the sidewalk, knocking them down and trampling upon them, and finally arresting thirty.

"These disgraceful struggles in the street must be stopped," said the Magistrate to Miss Pankhurst.

"They can be stopped, but only in one way," she answered. "If life is lost in this campaign the Liberal Government will be directly responsible. There can be no going back for us. It is the beginning of the end, and more will happen if we do not get justice."

There is much of this story which never has been told because the English papers would not print it. For questioning a candidate at a public meeting, the usual custom in England, the women have been set upon by the audience itself and their clothes literally torn off them, so that one at least had to appear in the police court without a dress.

They have been subjected to personal indignities which cannot be put into words. The present writer has seen facts from the lips of some of the sufferers. The only charges made against the women were assaulting a policeman or disturbing a meeting, and frequently there was so little evidence to sustain even these that opposite their names on the court register would be written "unconvicted."

Notwithstanding this, some of them were put into solitary confinement and others were thrown into cells with prisoners charged with murder. They were stripped and searched, their clothes taken away and calico dresses given them which had been worn by other prisoners.

Although compelled to scrub the stone floors every day on their knees, they were not provided with a change of clothing during six weeks imprisonment. They were fed on wooden plates with wooden

spoons and slept on thin mattresses laid on the floor.

The cells were infested with vermin and the rats ran over them at night. They were not allowed to write or receive letters or see their friends. These conditions were finally brought to the attention of Parliament and they have been somewhat mitigated.

About 200 have been put into jail from England, Scotland and Wales and one from Australia, all women of refinement and unimpeachable character. Among them are a sister of Gen. Sir John French, noted for her philanthropic work in London; a daughter of Richard Cobden, many university graduates, hospital nurses, teachers and wage earning women.

Can one conceive of greater martyrdom? And yet as soon as they come out of prison they repeat their offense. Their release is celebrated always by a mass meeting, and no hall is large enough for their audience.

Their oratorical power is marvellous and they have all the caustic wit and fervid eloquence of old campaign speakers. Annie Kenney, the factory girl, reminds one of Anna Dickinson during our civil war. They hold nearly a hundred meetings a month, those out of doors attended by thousands of people.

The most amusing feature of the campaign has been the panic in the House of Commons, which has been widely caricatured, even the Russian papers having cartoons. The daily search in the crypt for gunpowder, kept up since the time of Guy Fawkes, is forgotten in the face of this new danger.

Last May, when the suffrage bill was being talked to death and a few women in the gallery called out "Divide!" and waved a little banner, Westminster tottered on its foundations and Big Ben forgot to strike the hour. This month, when the bill was again to come before the House, extraordinary precautions were taken.

All the women connected with the Suffragette movement were strictly barred from the gallery and only those admitted who could prove that they had neither a voice nor a banner concealed about their persons. To ally their fears Miss Pankhurst sent word that her army would not approach the House on that day, but to avoid all risk the usual police force inside and outside the building was doubled and a platoon was held in reserve.

The Dickinson bill, which came up March 8, provided simply that women should have the franchise on the same terms as men. Premier Campbell-Bannerman announced his intention of voting for it and 430 members, a comfortable majority, were pledged to it.

A petition was presented, signed by 21,000 women, begging that this right should not be conferred upon them, but this was of small consequence, as, long before the present excitement, a petition signed by 257,000 women had asked for the suffrage. There was but one way to defeat the bill. An opponent got the floor and, with the connivance of the Speaker, who refused to accept a motion of closure, he talked till the end of the session.

The women had scarcely hoped for a victory this season, but a public sentiment in their favor has been created, the press is more friendly and just, the courts treat them with more leniency, they are well organized and daily gaining in numbers and experience. Their greatest danger lies in the changed attitude of the Independent Labor party toward the Women's Social and Political Union.

While from its organization in 1903 it was loyal to this party, it gave precedence over all else to woman suffrage. By 1906 this became an issue so vital that it placed on its banners the one legend, "Votes for

Women," and invited to its ranks those of all political parties.

Many responded, and the women then went into districts where the Labor party had no candidates but was supporting those of the Liberal party, questioned them, and if they opposed the enfranchisement of women made a strong and unrelenting fight on them. The Labor party held that if the Liberal candidates favored the measures desired by workingmen the women should support them.

The women not only refused to do this but when they found a Labor candidate unfavorable to woman suffrage they elected one against him also. So great was the anger toward the women for starting an independent campaign that the party organ, the *Labour Leader*, denounced them and an effort was made to expel Miss Pankhurst and Miss Billington from the Manchester branch.

A slight property qualification is still required of voters, which the Labor party is determined shall be removed, and for this purpose it is pressing a bill for adult suffrage without restrictions. It demands that the women shall allow their claims to be included in that bill.

This they refuse to do, holding that to the opposition to woman suffrage would be added the opposition to universal suffrage with no qualifications. They ask that the franchise shall be given to women on exactly the same terms as it is now exercised by men, and say that after this is done they will then be in a position to help men in the contest for universal suffrage.

The Labor party has been unmoved by their reasoning. It has had no desire to assist the women through a sense of abstract justice, but has only wished to use them to accomplish its own ends.

Keir Hardie, to whose commanding genius the Labor party owes its very existence, stood unflinchingly by the women. At the Belfast conference which voted in effect that no woman should have the suffrage until it was secured to every individual man, Keir Hardie, with much gravity and impressiveness, said:

"Twenty-five years ago I cut myself adrift from every relationship, political and other, to assist in building up a workers' party. I thought that my days of pioneering were over, but of late I have felt with increasing intensity the injustice inflicted upon women by our present political laws."

"If the resolution that has been carried here is intended to limit the action of this party in the House of Commons, I shall have to consider seriously whether I can remain a member further. I make this announcement with great respect to the conference and with great feeling."

"The party is largely my own child and I cannot part from it lightly or without pain, but I cannot sever myself from the principles I hold. If it is necessary for me to separate myself from what has been my life's work, I do so in order to remove the stigma resting upon our wives, mothers and sisters of being accounted unfit for political citizenship."

This pronouncement was made on January 28. The Labor members of Parliament came together on February 11 to prepare their programme and select their officers for the new session. In regard to the women's franchise bill they took formal action that "as a party they would not introduce one, but if a bill should be introduced the members should be free to take what action they saw fit." They then unanimously re-elected Keir Hardie chairman and he accepted.

This means the definite separation of the Independent Labor party from the organized movement for woman suffrage, not because of the justice of it, but

because it could not be subordinated to the interests of the men of the party.

The women declare that for the past sixty years they have been continually asked to sacrifice themselves for the good of one party or another and thus have crippled their own power, and they have reached a point where they believe that "political self-effacement is not demanded of women in the name of any ideal or any noble virtue, and to yield to such appeals is not a virtue but a betrayal of trust."

Possibly the result of this decision may be to bring the new and the old suffrage societies together. The recent events, when seventy-six women were sent to prison for showing their resentment at the treatment of the franchise bill in the House of Commons, prove their intention to continue their militant tactics. It remains to be seen whether these will be of as much avail when they no longer have behind them a strong political party to be feared because already in possession of the vote.

IDA HUSTED HARPER.

THE SUFFRAGETTES IN LONDON.

Sketch of Miss Pankhurst. Some Exploits of Her Followers.

Woman suffrage, gout, rheumatism and indigestion, these are the prevailing distempers that are afflicting English M. P.'s in this the glad spring season, and the greatest of these is woman suffrage. Rheumatism may be eased by taking the waters somewhere on the Continent, gout may be tenderly nursed and there are pale pills for indigestion, but, black-a-day, woman suffrage is a raging scourge that keeps the member from Manchester awake at nights and brings torture to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The first symptom of the malady is a general upheaval in all the members of the body politic. Then there are clamorous ululations and painful displays of epilepsy, this gradually increasing until hysteria is reached and the suffering public is racked by all varieties of spasms and back handspins.

At its height the attack is seemingly beyond the power to curb, and it only wears away when the fires of the votes-for-women fever have spent themselves feeding on their own fuel. Indeed the manifestations of the epidemic are pitiful.

The particular bug or germ that is responsible for this grievous affliction that is visited intermittently upon the English M. P. is called the Suffragette.

The best cure for its production is found in the House of Commons, though the ferment may go on quickly in any borough of England where an election for Members of Parliament is in progress. And woe to that member who dares to stand forth and defy the power of the bug.

London has not yet decided whether to take the English Suffragette seriously or not. When she parades the street in front of the Right Hon. Herbert Asquith's house and bites a policeman who tries to carry her off London is inclined to smile a severe British smile and admit that the joke is on the town.

When she languishes in prison with only three square meals a day and nothing to do but be a martyr the old village is prone to rise up and get flushed about the neck in righteous indignation at this unchivalrous treatment of a woman. After blowing hot and cold over the question of the militant Suffragette the metropolis has now settled

into a state of apathy and looks languidly on at the passing show, when the women feel like giving a show.

Not so with about two-thirds of the members of Parliament and some of the King's Ministers. The storming of the House of Commons has become too regular a practice on the part of the Suffragettes to permit the inmates of that fountainhead of laws to enjoy any great sense of security.

When there are sounds of shrieks and high pitched tongue lashings from the halls without or even from the visitors' gallery many an M. P. squirms uneasily on his seat and wishes that the American fire escape were an adjunct of the building. Mr. Asquith is frankly bothered by the Shrieking Sisterhood. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman temporizes when he is put in a corner and grows bolder in the open. Some of the members whose seats are in danger see visions and dream unpleasant dreams.

In Clement's inn, overlooking the Strand, the offices of the Women's Social and Political Union. There behind a high desk sits Christabel Pankhurst, general-in-chief of the Suffragette chasseur and directing mind of the storming parties.

"The Pankhurst, as she is known, has a sister, Sylvia, and a mother who, as aide-de-camp and lieutenant of division in the field, Miss Pankhurst is thus described:

"Miss Pankhurst is of medium height and quite delightfully plump. A wreath of curly brown hair straggles about a high, broad forehead. Her eyes are large and deep and gray."

"In repose her mouth is the ideal Cupid's bow. Ordinarily her round face with its velvety youthfulness [she is 28] is a baby face. The gray eyes have a baby stare."

"But watch the transformation when she is animated, when, for instance, she is addressing a vast assemblage of mingled sympathizers and opponents. Then her beauty becomes defined. Her eyes sparkle. Her mouth curves commands. Her nostrils dilate with the joy of a leader at the scent of battle."

Miss Pankhurst has been in several engagements with the police outside the House of Commons, and she has done her bit in Holloway jail along with other Suffragettes. What she devises the active campaigners of the every execute.

One of these tactical moves was the demonstration against Herbert Asquith last June. The Chancellor was delivering a speech at Northampton. Three Suffragettes were delegated to go and put Mr. Asquith's meeting out of business.

Just as the Chancellor was about to begin his speech these women stood up in the gallery and began to shout interruptions, vigorously waving banners with the shibboleth of the cause inscribed thereon. Ushers hurried to the women and tried to eject them. One of them, Miss Billington, drew a dog whip and began to strike out blindly.

The others scratched and bit any who laid hands on them. The hall was immediately in an uproar. The three women were taken up and carried out.

There they harangued a crowd of Socialists, while Mrs. Pankhurst, mother of Miss Pankhurst, broke loose again inside the hall. The grand result of the raid was that when Mr. Asquith left the hall he had to be guarded by a cordon of police.

Miss Pankhurst herself once created a diversion at a meeting held in one of the midland towns. She and Miss Annie Kenny had been following an anti-suffrage

M. P. around on his canvass endeavoring to break up his gatherings and discredit him among his constituents.

Finally he ordered the doorkeepers to bar out the two women. Miss Pankhurst rose to the occasion. She procured a ladder and climbed up to the roof of the hall where the meeting was in progress. She worked her way over the roof to a window.

Then just when the hated M. P. was in the middle of his speech she dropped a thirty foot banner inscribed "Votes for Women" through the window and punctuated her achievement with a triumphant yell.

Another valiant Suffragette inscribed her name on the roll of fame by standing siege in her house at Hammersmith against the minions of man made law. This was Mrs. Montefiore, who last May refused to pay her taxes on the old plea that one time made the thirteen American Colonies rise in just wrath. Her house was besieged by tax gatherers and bailiffs. Mrs. Montefiore barred up the house and defied them.

For several days this state of investment continued. Sympathetic Suffragettes came and threw pots of jam and loaves of bread over the wall for the relief of the garrison. At last a crowd gathered in front of the house and Mrs. Montefiore appeared at an open window upstairs and harangued them.

"When I get out I'm going to break every window in Mr. Asquith's house," she declared. Then she was arrested.

Last December when a party of the Suffragettes who had been serving out a sentence of three months in Holloway for participation in one of the House of Commons riots were released Mrs. Pankhurst and her sisters in the cause gave a dinner at the Savoy in honor of the martyrs, which had been jewels and silks. The menu was elaborate. The martyrs had seats of honor and the table in front of them was heaped high with dainties. The Suffragettes stood and sang "For they are jolly good fellows."

The Suffragettes have adopted the campaign methods of the tyrant man. As shown the walking advertisement has become an adjunct of the propaganda of woman suffrage. Those doubting the courage and determination of the Suffragettes have but to cast their eye on the stern figure depicted in the illustration with clenched fists and hand upraised in judgment.

Here is the embodiment of the militant woman of England, fighting for her rights. Here is the nightmare that gallops over the bedposts of the Right Hon. Herbert Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

A Seminole Legend.

Oklahoma correspondence Kansas City Journal. The Seminole Indians believed that when the Great Spirit created this world He made three men, all fair of skin. He led them to a lake and bade them jump in. The first obeyed and came out whiter than when he went in. The second hesitated, going into the lake when the water was a trifle muddy, hence came out copper colored. According to the legend the Great Spirit led them to three bundles, asking each to choose one. The black man chose the heaviest, which was found to contain opium. The white man chose the lightest, which contained gunpowder. The third man chose the middle one, which contained gunpowder, opium and a snake. The white man chose the lightest, which contained gunpowder, opium and a snake. The white man chose the lightest, which contained gunpowder, opium and a snake.

Alcohol From Cactus Plants.

From the Milwaukee Sentinel. "Texas ranchers are much pleased with the new denatured alcohol law, for it is expected that they will be able to make a goodly sum of money from the cactus plant, which grows so prolifically there," said A. R. La Sage of Cincinnati. "Large areas of land in Texas are covered with cactus, which has been almost useless up to this time. It is claimed that the leaves contain a large amount of raw material which when distilled makes an excellent alcohol. Portable stills have already been set up on many of the ranches for the double purpose of making alcohol and fodder from the plant."

POLAR DAYS AND NIGHTS.

Day, which is summer, is Not So Bad, but the Night is Awful.

During a polar winter the average thickness of ice on the ocean where no storms or strong tides interfere reaches six feet or more. Nansen found a thickness of over eight feet.

There is really no warm season. Even during the long summer days snow still falls frequently. Clear spells are relatively warm, but, especially in the Antarctic, fog and cloud are frequent, while winds bring low temperatures.

Nevertheless the summer near the margins of the Arctic zone is described in the *Journal of Geography* as having clean, pure, crisp air, free from dust and with little precipitation.

The monotony and darkness of the polar night is decreased a good deal by the long twilight, due to the high degree of reflection at low temperatures. The sun actually appears and disappears some days before and after the time which are geometrically set for the change.

Light from moon and stars, and from the aurora, also relieves the darkness. Optical phenomena of great variety, beauty and complexity are common. Solar and lunar haloes, and coronae, and mock suns and moons are often seen. Auroras seem to be less common and less brilliant in the Antarctic than in the Arctic. Sunset and sunrise of colors within the polar zones are described as being extraordinarily brilliant and impressive.

Thus the north polar summer, in spite of its drawbacks, is in some respects a pleasant and healthful season. But the polar night is monotonous, depressing, repelling. An everlasting uniform snow covering, rigidity, lifelessness, silence—except for the howl of the gale or the crackling of the ice.

Small, unbalanced men's minds. The first effects are often a strong desire for sleep, and indifference. Later effects have been sleeplessness and nervousness, leading in extreme cases to insanity, anemia, digestive troubles.

Extraordinarily low winter temperatures are easily borne if the air is dry and still. Nansen notes "not very cold" at a temperature of 60 degrees, when the air was still. Another Arctic explorer, at 4 degrees, says "it is too warm to skate."

Zero weather seems pleasantly refreshing if clear and calm. But high relative humidity and wind—even a light breeze—give the same degree of cold a penetrating feeling of chill which may be unbearable. Thus the damp air of spring and summer usually seems much colder than the drier air of winter, although the temperatures may be the same.

When exposed directly to the air the skin burns and blisters; the lips swell and crack. Thirst has been much complained of by polar explorers, and is surely due to the active evaporation from the warm body into the dry, relatively cold air.

There is no doubt that polar air is singularly free from micro-organisms—a fact which is due chiefly to lack of communication with other parts of the world. Hence diseases which are common in temperate zones, "colds" among them, are rare.

Approaching the Car.

From the Bylander. Supposing one of the Czar's Ministers demands an extra interview and it does not please His Majesty to grant it, Peter Katoef, a well known and trusted friend of three successive Russian Emperors, is sent to announce the fact that His Majesty is tired. He has now to ask the Minister what he has business, for there are few of the Emperor's letters and telegrams he does not read. If, too, it does not please the value to announce a visitor or deliver a message, the Emperor would be none the wiser to obtain an audience with the Czar is next to an impossibility, but there are exceptions. One gentleman relates how he went to the palace in response to an invitation from the Emperor. After he had been conducted from room to room and carefully searched he was allowed, to his great surprise, to speak to the Emperor on the telephone.